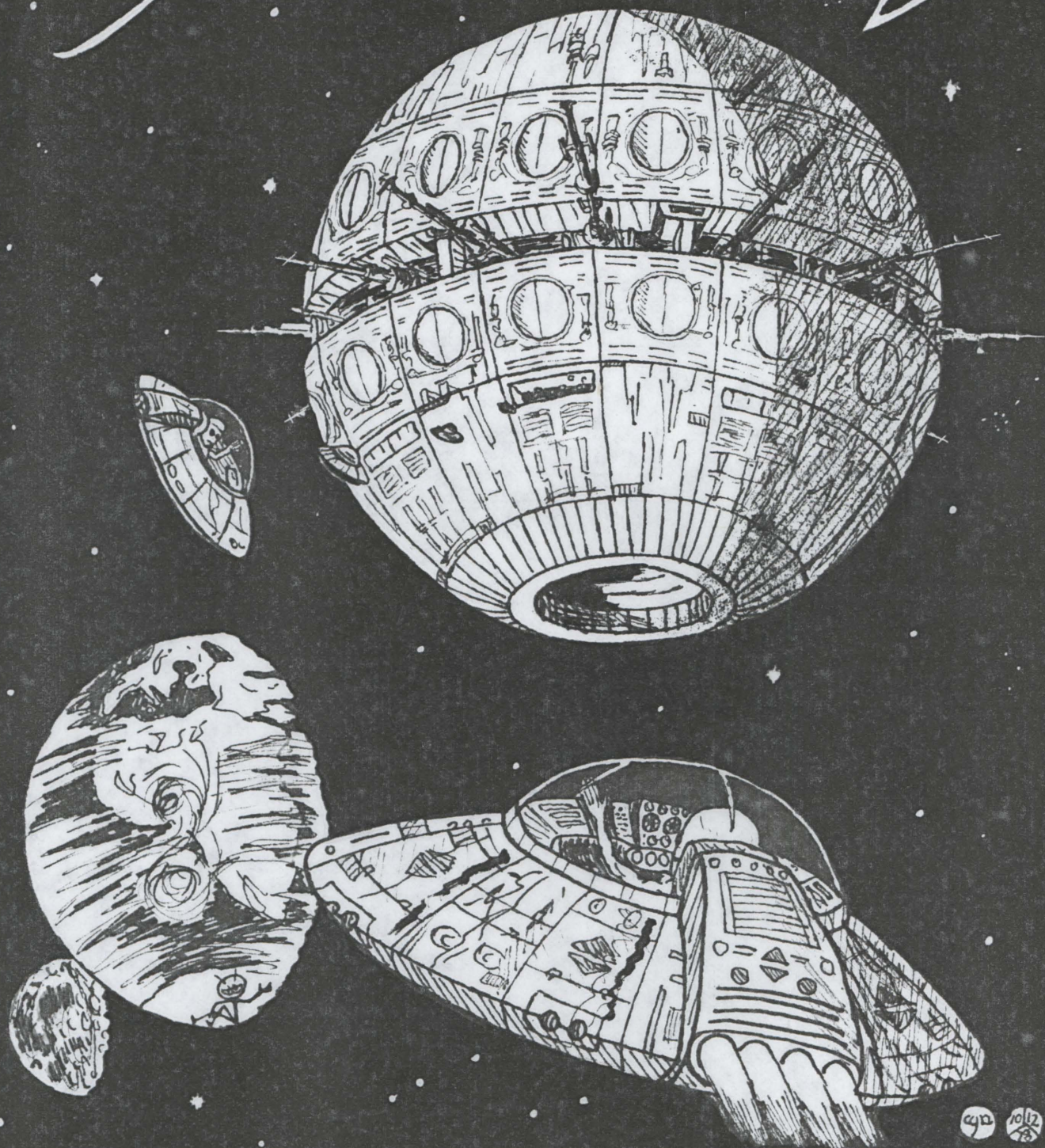


NORTHERN UFOLOGY



UFO'S AS EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACESHIPS!

NORTHERN UFOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the first in our restyled publication output series for the new year. We hope that you like the changes, but of course we are always pleased to hear ideas and comments. The basic idea is, of course, to keep Northern UFO News primarily as a source of news (sightings, meetings, events etc) and to use this quarterly journal more as a discussion forum. You can contribute articles on any topic, but we are making it more interesting and (we hope) easier for you to contribute by providing a theme each issue. This month - as you can see - it is UFOs as Extraterrestrial Spaceships. The debate topic for the April issue will be UFO ABDUCTIONS - WHAT ARE THEY? So start thinking around that. If you think aliens are visiting earth what is the purpose of abductions? If you think there may be another answer then let us know.

If you have any suggestions for future issue themes then please do write in so that we can give them consideration.

News in brief.....

... Following on from the successful spring meeting held last year by the Crewe group, FUFOR it has been decided to stage a similar NUFON event at the same venue under their supervision. The date is:-

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24th 1979 Starting at 1pm (until about 5pm)
CREWE CIVIC CENTRE LIBRARY LECTURE THEATRE Prince Albert Street

The venue is close to the town square (about 10/15 minutes walk from the railway station). Buses K1, K2, K5, K6 & K7 stop there. Crewe is of course ideal for travel by car, handy to good motorway links.

As with last year about an hour will be devoted to an open forum meeting and the rest of the time will be devoted to 2 or 3 major lectures on varying topics (hopefully some will be illustrated).

MAKE SURE YOU ARE THERE... details from FUFOR (see P9) at Crewe 582359

... On January 18th there is to be a House of Lords debate about whether the British government should finance a full-scale investigation into UFOs. We will bring you an inside report on this in the February issue.

IF AN 'X' APPEARS IN THIS BOX IT MEANS THAT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED. SEVERAL OF YOU HAVE PROBABLY JUST FORGOTTEN AND HAVE BEEN SENT THIS ISSUE AS A REMINDER... BUT SADLY IT IS THE LAST WE CAN SEND OUT WITHOUT A RENEWAL REMITTANCE



As the story goes, thousands of years ago early civilisations were approached by humanoid strangers in vehicles of amazing design. These people from the skies came to be regarded as Gods. Then these Gods did wonderful things for primitive earthlings. They taught us wonderful secrets, helped build fantastic structures and organised cities. With some they even inter-married.

Of all of this there is evidence around us today. How could such incredible things, by the by, be products of primitives? Then there are the natural wonders, forms vitrified in rock, unnatural extinction of species. Legends begin in many ways, and some must have a basis in fact. Yet, I personally believe that early man was not as dumb as he is made out, and many of the things attributed to extraterrestrials were in fact simply man's ingenuity and determination to rise above all others.

Yet the likelihood of visitations by extraterrestrials remains. Modern man has acknowledged that other stars must have planets and that some will be life-supporting and the numbers involved are in the many thousands at least. So some life forms will have existed long before others and could have developed into highly advanced beings. So just as we now leave our earthly environs they too could have taken these first steps but long, long ago - when man was barely an ape. Or perhaps they simply have developed a little faster from then onwards.

Most UFOs are seen above the ground, and appear and disappear in the sky. A very great number are seen to come down from great heights and return there. Close Encounter UFOs visually appear capable of spaceflight, and usually when occupants are reported they verbally claim to originate from space.

It seems that the evidence is mounting. They cannot be from an earth civilisation since things on secret lists do not remain so indefinitely and the support needed to carry out programmes would not be easy to hide. Even accepting UFOs as only of recent appearance, which they are not, the secret would have been out long ago.

Where do they come from? I believe not from our solar system but somewhere beyond the stars. One of our other solar system planets may be used as a local base, and our moon is a likely contender. My proposed origin is usually attacked because of the vast distances involved, although this is not the only objection to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis (ETH). I shall deal with several in this article, although I am sure that readers will be able to devise other objections!

So vast distances are an insurmountable problem? It once took man five years to circle the earth in the earliest sailing ships. Even these attempts were considered impossible because the science of the day said that the earth was flat and if you sailed to the other side you would fall off! Now we can travel the globe in hours and in a standard of comfort those early sailors could only dream of. To say that distance or speed is an impassable barrier is as foolish as those scientists of the past who would call our modern day science an absurd impossibility.

The UFO problem is like an incomplete jigsaw that we have to imagine complete. All answers to the mystery are merely theories at the present. Until science has studied the matter seriously and provided a negative answer to them then a positive attitude is just as valid.

An alien life form from the other side of the universe has an advancement on us of millions of years. Their physics will totally contradict our primitive mumbo-jumbo science. So how does a vast distance bother them? It only bothers us with our snail crawling to the moon.

UFOs exist as a great majority of differing types, occupant descriptions - how can one account for such multiplicity? USA and USSR have sent up a vast range of spacecraft shapes, sizes, and colours to do all manner of tasks. Men and women have been sent up - some equipped for spacious accommodation, others for a cramped environment. Think of the possibilities if we sent up negroids, orientals, aborigines. We have sent up a great menagerie of animals too and there is speculation now that we could breed

WHITHER COMEST THOU Cont....

special species to survive long range space missions. So if we alone can provide such variety the variety of the UFO mystery can be answered by just two or three different races visiting us.

UFO entities act senselessly? Imagine a team of technologists digging up the jungle to extract minerals. They confront a primitive race. What would happen? This race would no doubt view them with fear and as godly, but with strange personal habits. And how can it be intelligent to destroy the beauty of nature, chop down trees, senselessly kill wild animals and then stick a bit of metal in the ground to suck up a black oozy mess.

Yet the UFOs and entities can seem both solid and non-solid. How can this be? In our physics we know that some materials exhibit properties of both a solid and a non-solid. Flowing water becomes solid ice when the temperature changes. Invisible non-material electronic pulses when reassembled become a satellite photograph or an image from the planet Mars. We cannot understand the limits of atomic physics - we have only scratched the surface.

In some UFO contacts associated psychic effects are reported and 'new' ufologists seek a purely mind orientated solution. ETH proponents will challenge this by suggesting that the aliens are controlling our minds. Science fiction is the cry - but then what is science fact? If completely alien people met there would surely be some unusual interactions. Strange reactions, misunderstandings would be rife. If the difference in intelligence levels were enormous then what would happen? It could explain this 'possession of the mind'. Some accidental permeation of radiation that causes disorientation and illusion. We know that drugs and even some foods can cause such delusions, with varying strengths and consequences.

Are these extraterrestrials peaceful, hostile or curious? There could be similar consequences. If peaceful they would not want to frighten us so might use camouflage and if hostile, deception would also be an accepted ploy. So they throw a nice smoke-screen around their activities. They appear unreal and the subject is laughed at. Meanwhile they get on with whatever their intentions are - peace or not! They may be waiting until we are at the right stage to communicate on their terms or they may be planning in great detail the best method of taking over our planet. If they are simply curious think of the eminent TV logic of 'Star Trek' - to observe but not to interfere unduly in the natural development of a world.

As for concrete evidence - well is there any for any theory? Yet the evidence that we have collected over the years seems best to fit the ETH. Photographs may be dubious but some do seem to show a craft of some sort. Radar trackings do indicate sometimes very large craft high in the sky performing incredible manouevres (eg Washington 12 Jul 1954). They are not easily proved because radar systems are usually under some form of control. Denials are inevitably common after an initial leak. Trained personnel - policemen, army officers etc have from time to time come out with acceptable stories of UFO contact (eg policeman Lennie Zamoro at Socorro 24 April 1964). The most startling evidence are the stories of captured spacemen and spacecraft. Such as the development engineer who worked for USAF and swore that he was involved in the examination of a UFO and dead occupant that had crashed on 21 May 1953. They are just stories, of course, and they have, as expected, been denied. Yet they are just as valid as any other theory and its evidence.

To summarise I would say that any alien race far advanced in technology enough to be able to cross interstellar space would seek out other intelligent life. Very few knowledgeable people now deny that the possibility such life forms exist is quite high, and since we are relative newcomers so far as the developmental age of the universe is concerned then the odds seem favourable. Somewhere a super intelligent life form will have developed and there is no reason to doubt that we are not experiencing visitations from it or them. Extraterrestrial spaceships must surely exist! But that is not to say that all UFOs come from outer space. I wonder what else contributes to the vast ufological enigma?

Those of you who have seen the film CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND will no doubt remember the breathtaking forty minutes at the end, showing the awe-inspiring approach of the huge alien mother ship. Then it majestically rises into the skies. Scre upon acre of metal and plastic behaving as gently as if it were a child's balloon. STAR WARS had a similar craft - the death star - a titanic vessel capable of destroying an entire planet. These craft do, of course, abound in galaxy-spanning science fiction stories.

What about real life? Are the vast mother ships that many people claim to have seen and even entered real or are they just castles in the air? (An example of a interstellar dreadnought may be found in NORTHERN UFO NEWS, July 1978 P.8)

Supposing we consider an example and try to visualise the technology involved. Let's take a modest little craft, perhaps a sphere 1000 feet in diameter. A sphere is said to be the perfect shape for an interstellar craft because it has maximum volume with minimum surface area. Now a Saturn 5, like the ones used in the Apollo programme, tips the scales at around 3,393 tons. At a rough estimate our sphere could accomodate 50,000 Saturn 5s! So the wweight of our mini-titan should be in the region of..... one hundred and seventy MILLION tons!!

The first problem is now obvious. How do we set such a massive bulk to support its own weight, let alone withstand the stresses and strains of being launched and then flying about the galaxy?

The logical thought is anti-gravity. If an object, no matter how big, weighed nothing it could be put into orbit with a minimum of effort. Once in orbit anti-gravity is useless, since anything up there is weightless anyway! Although it has no weight it still has a mass - in our example several million tons of it. That needs one hell of a thrust to move it let alone the people inside, without making them uncomfortable or shaking the whole damn thing apart! What is needed is something to get rid of the mass, or rather counteract it. With the mass the weight disappears too. E.E. 'Doc' Smith had a nice gizmo in his sci-fi stories about dreadnoughts. He called it anti-inertia drive. When switched on the inertia (or mass) of the whole ship and everything in it was neutralised. The vessel could then be accelerated to light speed with an astonishingly small amount of effort, and not a thing would be felt inside.

However, 'Doc' Smith's inertia cancelling device had its problems. If a ship was moving through space at a few thousand MPH and then the inertialess drive was switched on and left on while the craft landed - fine. BUT - if it were then switched off the ship would regain its mass, weight ...and its original velocity. Crunch! Scratch one 'x' million ton miraculous space-ship.

We know that the technology required is at present way beyond the capacity of the human race, as incidentally would be the cost. Considering how much it would run up to finance even a small scale project we must conclude that whoever is building the things is worth a bob or two!

So if the people who claim to have seen such giant ships are telling the truth who is building them? It could only be an extraterrestrial race. Now we have to face up to some facts. A race of beings capable of such technological feats would be so advanced as to be beyond our conception. What could people with so much power and ability possibly want with a backward little place like planet earth?

Well now - that's another story.

"In the shadows of ufology"

Comment on 'The Paul Grant Affair' JENNY RANDLESS

The UFOIN files, housed at the NUFOIS HQ in Nottingham, are the source of a vast array of fascinating information. Consisting of selected, in-depth reports on high strangeness incidents they are obviously a potential catalyst for significant research. Should you, as a researcher, wish to avail yourself of these readily available facilities you can arrange it with NUFOIS (c/o HQ 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB or telephone Dr Robert Morrell at 0602-860010). NUFOIS do offer some limited accommodation facilities, if you don't mind sleeping a little rough in the cause of ufology!

If you go along to the HQ one of the most recent additions you will find there is a mammoth work by Andy Collins and Barry King (prolific investigators in the Essex/Greater London area). Entitled the 'Paul Grant Affair' it is well presented and 99 pages long. This, I know, is but the tip of the iceberg. BUFORA published a summary of some of the contents in their Nov/Dec 1978 Journal. Andy Collins has plans for a sequel - and there is even talk of a book on the various implications that the manuscript provides. You might have assumed by now it is pretty hot stuff!

The Paul Grant Affair is an in depth appraisal of a contactee, who has had just about everything happen to him - ghosts, poltergeists, psychic phenomena, MIB harassings, numerous UFO sightings and even TWO abductions! All of this is made more incredible because the focus for it is a 26 year old man who may very well be known to you. I have known him quite well for a couple of years. His knowledge of UFOs is quite extensive. There is no doubt that he could have made up all the stories in the report with ease, but I know very well he has not done. In any case there is no reason on earth why he should. Nobody will really believe him - and ufologists will be amongst the most sceptical. He knows this. In addition despite his desire for anonymity (Paul Grant is a pseudonym) it will not take the informed ufologist five minutes to put two and two together and work out who he is. Paul knows this too.

I do not think it is all that important what was the cause for Paul's long and complex set of experiences. What is singularly important is that a prominent UFO investigator has had these remarkable experiences. When one bears in mind the very considerable 'drop-out' rate from ufology one has to ponder whether Paul is anything like unique. I do not believe that he is. It could be that we all place ourselves into an enhanced 'danger' situation by becoming deeply involved in the phenomenon. Many of us ride it out, although few seem to get by without any intervention or sabotage attempts. It may all stem from the make up of the individual involved. Some are lucky, others are bound to end up in trouble. There may be inhibiting factors that prevent the 'influences' from getting through. Maybe we should start to study UFO investigators as well as witnesses!

Now it has become obvious to me over the past couple of years that the further one goes up the 'strangeness trail' the greater the degree of susceptibility the central witness is seen to possess. Low, Medium definition cases are seen by anyone. To experience a CE1 or CE2 you need to have some 'open channels'. These channels are often evidenced by past psychic experiences or multiple UFO sightings (I tend to feel that in a UFO experience the two may be interchangeable, even if they are not the same thing). As for the CE3 and CE4 experience I think there is considerable evidence particularly for the CE4, to support the basic contention summed up by the maxim: "If you are not psychic or susceptible then you cannot be abducted"

Obviously the spectrum of humanity is wide and so we have apparent witness selectivity. Ufologists too provide a big cross section. Some will be very psychic. Others will have minds that shut like armour plated doors whenever the word 'poltergeist' or 'astral travel' is mentioned. I have come across many who say to me "Ballyhoo, why drag such nonsense into UFOs. We have enough trouble sorting out the devious machinations of these spacemen." Needless to say these are the ones who will avoid the MIBs - and they will be taking no free rides to Alpha Centauri.

There will of course be some ufologists who are receptive and so become repeater witnesses. This could even be a legitimate reason why skywatches are so productive when logic tells us that there is less chance of spotting a UFO on one than seeing somebody in 'Crossroads' actually breathe! At the extreme end some will end up being scared to death by the MIBs or abducted. Either way they say farewell to ufology as a means to some sanity.

In between here lies the ranks of the 'typical' ufologist - amongst which I count myself. Certainly not very psychic, but at least open to its possibilities. Amenable to the facts that clearly present themselves. UFOs cannot be understood as a simple, physical machine. There is a complex set of witness inter-relationships and intense subjectivity involved. Such folk, myself included, do have peculiar experiences from time to time. I have not had any MIBs knock on my door (yet) or be chased by a green sports car with false number plates (as did Paul Grant)... but I have had one or two strange phone calls, and my telephone appears to have been tapped on several occasions.. all part of my job, I accept it. I've seen UFOs too - in remarkably increasing numbers over the past couple of years (since my mind started to open to these possibilities - coincidentally) So far there has been nothing spectacular, but I have had at least two unexplained sightings since last Summer (which is two more than my ten years of research prior to that). Then there was the remarkable series of events that Peter Warrington and I call our "education process" (see Ch 13 UFOs: A British Viewpoint :: Robert Hale, Apr 1979)

I doubt if I am yet ready for even a CE1.. or indeed if I will ever plunge into the shadows of ufology - but I do now accept that it could happen - but I think I know that if it did happen even my best friends would not believe me. Jenny Randles - the ufo contactee.... pull the other one.

So I think I can appreciate the plight of Paul Grant.

All of this has been said without presupposing any explanation for the UFO phenomenon. Think on it. The results would be about the same if UFOs are controlled by an intelligence that is manipulating our minds (by means of those most open to manipulation - the psychic/susceptible/receptive persons) OR if the whole thing is a complex psychological jigsaw puzzle put together by our own minds for reasons best known to itself. I do not yet know the truth... but I can certainly visualise an acceptable solution to the ufo mystery without super spaceships, giant computers, MIBs or men from Merak (the home planet of the aliens Paul Grant confronted). We have to explain the variety and lack of consistency of CE4 stories - and we must never forget that we all have very vivid and very individual imaginations, constrained to some basic rules about what spacemen and spaceships could look like. If UFOs are spaceships and the spacemen all look more or less like us then all I can say is that God doesn't have much of an imagination.

I am not stupidly dogmatic and I don't say that some UFOs are 'not from space', but I am still awaiting any evidence of this and I prefer to use Occam's Razor. Before we start looking up there for the answers, let's carry on looking down here. Even if UFOs are piloted by an intelligence you could never believe what it is telling us. It's all been one great big runaround. If they tell us they come from Venus - then they probably don't... If they give us a star map pointing their way home to Zeta Reticuli or Merak then we can scrub off two more possible destinations. In fact, if we maintain the logic, we can probably scrub off outer space altogether since they very rarely say they come from anywhere else.

Paul Grant has shown courage, and I for one am glad that he has. Perhaps as a fitting finale I will quote from the report a passage given by his Merak captors. Whoever is speaking... Merak... Paul Grant's psyche or something else it makes sense.

"It is up to each one to accept what they firmly believe to be correct... If you think we come from your Mars or Venus, then we do. If you think we come from inside your planet or from your future, then we do... We shall manifest in many forms at different stages in your evolution... You have to remember that they are all part of a multifaceted jewel. You only see one or two parts... never the whole, never the whole."

"Those were the Days"

NIGEL WATSON (SUFORS)

The extraterrestrial hypothesis is both simple and logical. Because of these attributes any other theory about UFO origin quickly perished in the brain cells of the fruitful. Having established itself like a common garden weed, the ETH killed off all the flowers and let its chocking roots strangle the very throat of the problem.

Nowadays theories about UFOs are swinging in the direction of the psychological and parapsychological explanations, and many modern day UFO buccaneers cannot restrain themselves from taking a scythe out to the ETH weeds. Of course this new emphasis on anything but the ETH is a deplorable and frightening development. It can only serve as the death-song for ufological studies as we once knew them.

The so called 'New' ufologists are nothing more than the degenerate remnants of those wierd and wonderful people of the 1960's. Having practised the evils of Astrology, Palmistry, ghost hunting, drug abuse, black magic... and Dylanology, they now resort to infiltrating and gaining power in the UFO groups and networks.

Yet the thought of the 'Old' ufology - the good old ETH - brings back waves of nostalgia. Those historic days and nights on a hilltop in Warminster, the black starry heavens churning to the rocketing blasts of atomic propelled space cruisers, the sight of Arthur Shuttlewood on the horizon..... Those were the days when a ufologist was a rational, level-headed, scientific person who believed in the might of the British Empire.

What have we left today? Nothing more than a bunch of students and freaks. The wierder the theory or the idea, the better they like it. They only investigate the very strangest of cases, deserting those significant light-in-the-sky spaceships. They even invent new terms - such as CE4 - to accomodate their perverted idealogy. The more chuckle headed the witness - so much the better.

Today ufology is at a crossroads. Despite the alternative viewpoints and new areas of study, the subject of UFOs remains, and will remain, a soap opera. New actors, scenes, and scripts will be trundled before the ufological and public audiences, and as with all 'good' soap opera it will be fascinatingly banal.

BRITISH PAPERBACK RELEASES... 1978

- Sphere THE HYNEK UFO REPORT 300pp 95p (Dr. Hynek's second solo effort. An interesting, comprehensive review of his time with the USAF project)
- SITUATION RED, Len Stringfield 95p (One for ETH fans. In the same vein as Keyhoe's books - crashed saucers, government plots etc)
- UFOs: A SCIENTIFIC ENIGMA 140pp 75p (Tiny but an excellent, general introduction to UFOs in 1978 - or 1977. By an Australian, unknown here)
- Panther THE COSMIC QUESTION 224pp 75p (John Keel's latest, least productive and most rambling book. Some nice bits about microwaves).
- Abacus THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY 269pp £1.75 (Only one of two new books by a British writer this year. Stephen Jenkins as a schoolteacher who tries to relate UFOs, fairies, leylines and much more. He starts to make sense but ends up going nowhere really)
- Arrow CLOSE ENCOUNTERS 96pp £1.75 (Alan West, UK ufologist and radio broadcaster, plus David Jefferis in a colourful, well illustrated general introduction. Large format and well constructed but very superficial.)
- Signet ENCOUNTER CASES FROM FSR 220pp 95p (Edited by Charles Bowen and imported - its an American production. Compilation of 'the best of FSR' - mostly CE3s and such like from all over the world. If you dont have many back issues from FSRs 24 years then its well worth having)

A very disturbing thought came into my head recently. What if a scientist decided to consider the UFO enigma? To my mind he would find himself confronted with a mass of inadequate investigations on an innumerable number of report forms. All of these would be written up in different ways!

If one examines the BUFORA and NUFON files one finds this horrific situation backed up. I think it fair to say that these files are UFO REPORTS not UFO INVESTIGATIONS. Many potentially interesting cases are covered simply by a report form, and by no stretch of the imagination can this be called an investigation.

This may all be fair enough for a low definition case, and I realise that there are individual circumstances involved. It may just not be possible to conduct an on-site investigation. However, I do feel that it is easy to follow up a case by telephone or mail - asking detailed questions that way. It is essential.

How often do we see an estimate of size at arms length grossly exaggerated by a witness? A golf ball at arms length bears no comparison to an object that is elsewhere estimated as half the apparent diameter of the full moon! It would be very simple for an investigator to get the witness to make a comparison with the sun or moon or such like. One cannot blame witnesses for not understanding arms length measurements. It is the job of the INVESTIGATOR to obtain as much data as possible, so that a full evaluation of the sighting can be made.

There are no hard and fast rules for conducting an investigation or presenting a report. Yet a standardised format can be devised to ensure that a consistent level of information is obtained. One does not say you must obtain this information in this way, or put it in your report precisely here - but one can, and must, say when the particular piece of information is an important one - THIS PIECE OF DATA MUST BE INCLUDED SOMEWHERE IN YOUR REPORT.

I feel that the NUFON files should be subdivided now into two levels A and B. The former should consist only of acceptable, full and well presented reports. The latter of all the inadequate stuff, in the investigation level C, D and E groups. This is if NUFON cannot take the decision not to file a report that is simply not good enough. If one of these choices is not followed as the files expand over the years the good data will become swamped by the morass of trivialities.

I see no real reason for submitting identified cases. They take up space and are of little or no value to research.

A simple example concerns report forms. I can see no reason why anybody feels the need to devise their own forms. BUFORA spent years devising the R1 and R2 forms (the former for lower strangeness cases, the latter - plus supplementary forms - for close encounters etc). There is even an investigators checklist available which you fill in as you go along to make sure you have done all you should have done as an investigator. Most of the other forms I have seen are either too short, too long or ask totally unnecessary questions which needlessly confuse a witness.

Finally remember it is you - the investigator - who has had contact with the witness. You must conclude your report with comments and reasons about what you think was seen or whether you feel it is unidentified. It goes without saying that the better cases need maps, even site photographs. Your aim must always be to enable a reader 20 years from now to look at your report and know with ease what happened, where it happened, who it happened to, what you think caused the event or why you think it has to be called a UFO. Just think what you would need to convince you.

Look at your reports and ask yourself - "Are these good enough to be used for objective, scientific research?" I know some of mine are not. So sit back and think deeply on how you can improve your reports - remember it is the one thing you are personally contributing. Don't make it a waste of yours and everyone else's time!

(EDITORS NOTE: Ufoin does help alleviate this problem, of course. Most of the high-strangeness NUFON cases are now being separately filed in this way. UFOIN too has produced a set of articles on investigation and has devised a standard layout for submitted case reports. A copy of this will shortly be sent to all groups. Make it known - discuss it with your members. There are plans too for a series of articles in Northern UFO News.)

NUFON INFORMATION..... January 1979

The general NUFON correspondence address and editorial address is:-

23 SUNNINGDALE DRIVE IRLAM SALFORD M30 6NJ (Tel: 061-775-4749)

This telephone number can be quoted as a 'hotline' number for the north (manned all day) For the Midlands you may quote the number Leicester 826545 (24 hour ansaphone)

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OVERSEAS DATA LIBRARY 23 HASTINGS RD THORNTON-LE-FYLDE LANCs FY5 5JA
HQ (All files on store) 443 MEADOW LANE NOTTINGHAM NG2 3GB

Associated Groups:- (* indicates publish group journal of some kind)

IURC	19	Cairnshill Ave	Belfast	Northern Ireland	BT8 4NR	(*)
SMIO	5	Kingslaw Farm	Tranent	E. Lothian	Scotland	EH33 1DY
BUFORG		Bluehouses	Hassington	Kelso	Borders	Scotland
CHRYDIS	48	Britannia Place	Dormanstown	Co Cleveland		(*)
BUFORA Yorkshire	8	Central Park	Wellhead	Halifax	West Yorks	HX1 2BT
PULSE	29	Bairstow Street	Preston	Lancashire		PR1 3TN
WUFOS	21	Cunningham Drive	Bromborough	Wirral	Merseyside	
DIGAP	24	Bentfold Drive	Unsworth	Bury	Gtr M/Cr	BL9 8NG
MUFORA	597	Mauldeth Rd West	Chorlton	Manchester		M21 9SH
MAPIT	92	Hillcrest Rd	Offerton	Stockport		SK2 5SE (*)
FUFOR	2	Acer Avenue	Crewe	Cheshire		(*)
CUFORT	8	Barton Rd	Congleton	Cheshire		CW12 3HB
UFORA Staffordshire	60	Heathend Rd	Alsager	Stoke	Staffs	ST7 2SH
UFOSIS	91	Hardware Street	West Bromwich	W. Midlands		B70 8SU
SUFORS	1	Angerstein Rd	Scunthorpe	S. Humber		DN17 2LZ
NUFOIS	443	Meadow Lane	Nottingham	Notts		NG2 3GB (*)
UAPROL	45	Ellsemere Rd	Braunstone	Leicester		LE3 1BG (*)
HAPI	70	Burleigh Rd	Hinckley	Leicestershire		

***** INVESTIGATIONS.....INVESTIGATIONS.....INVESTIGATIONS

Only a small sample this month. Low and Medium Definition summaries below. Four more interesting reports over leaf. Northern UFO News will catch up with outstanding data.

<u>LOW</u>	78/156	Oct 1 (00-25)	Leigh, Gtr Mcr	C	DIGAP	Probable Aircraft
			Stationary white LITS - resolved into two lits, moving slowly (1 M)			
	78/157	Oct 3 (19.45)	Tyldsley, Gtr Mcr	C	DIGAP	Insufficient
			Brief duration white blob, stationary then streaked away. (1M, 1F married)			
	78/158	Oct 6 (24.00)	Kenyon, Cheshire	C	DIGAP	Insufficient
			Pulsing green light, high pitched bleeping. 30 seconds. (2M)			
	78/159	Oct 7 (19.15)	Kingstanding, W. Mid	B	UFOSIS	Possible space debris?
			Brief trail of 6 lits, five green, one orange. 4/5 Seconds (1M)			
	78/163	Nov 21 (14.20)	Greystoke, Cumbria	Level D		Probable weather balloon
			Silver pinprick. Stationary 5 mins. Cloud later passed over, area and			
			swirled into unusual vortex pattern. UFO had vanished. (1M plus 3)			
<u>MED</u>	7901	Jan 3 (23.00)	Gee Cross, Gtr Mcr	B	MUFORA	Possible Helicopter
			Bright white LITS seen to hover then move off (1F)			
<u>MED</u>	78/153	Jan ? (21.00)	Keyingham, N. Humb	C	SUFORS	Possible ball lightning
			Brilliant rugby ball shape hovering over field. Vanished after 2 mins (1M 1F)			
	78/160	Oct 11 (19.00)	Atherton, Gtr Mcr	C	DIGAP	Insufficient data
			Young boys saw black cigar, Buzzing noise. After one minute flew off (2M)			
	78/164	Nov 26 (00.20)	Killingworth, Tyne	B	Carol Tounessen	UNKNOWN
			Grey concave lens. Silent. Swooped low, banked, flew off (1M)			
	78/165	Nov 27 (16.55)	Crank, Msyside	A	Brian Fishwick	UNKNOWN
			Two red lights, 50p piece size, 50 feet apart - rose from woods and headed			
			towards witnesses - made soft, strange noise - unusual dark shape behind them.			
			Changed direction and flew off. 5 minute duration (2F)			

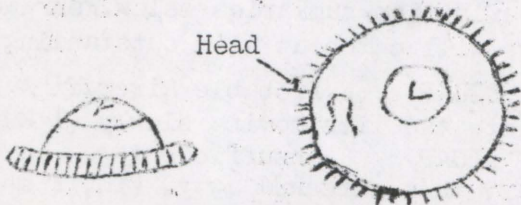
May 23 1978 Brierley Hill, West Midlands CE3 4

Level 4

Although the witness to this incident is but a nine year old girl called Melanie the investigators believe her story. Not only is it complex and told without deviation, but it mirrors other UFO accounts well. Her parents have been interviewed also. They were very shaken when Melanie told them of the sighting? just moments after it had happened, as they know she is a very truthful girl. It should be noted that Geoff Westwood, who interviewed Melanie the next day, is a police officer and well used to ascertaining the truth of a witnesses story.

The village that the family live in is close to Brierley Hill and Kingswinford on the edges of West Midlands county, to the west of Birmingham (about 15 m west). The family rise about 7am. It was about 7.30am with Melanie alone in the kitchen temporarily. It was a cold, clear morning with a blue sky. Suddenly she looked out of the window to the east and saw a strange object at rooftop height. It was hovering. After a few moments it started to move and descend coming very close to the house (only about 25 feet away) at a height of about 8 feet. Needless to say at this point she got a good look at it! Yet it came even closer. After hovering here a moment it traveled below the height of the 6 feet tall fence and stopped directly in front of the kitchen window about 3 feet away and 4 feet off the ground! The size was estimated at this point as about 6 feet in diameter. The object then moved off again, and was temporarily obscured. Then it reappeared still low again opposite the house and moving. The girl's fear had been mounting and she had pressed back hard against the wall behind her when she thought it was going to crash straight into the window. She then ran from the room to her mother who immediately looked through all the windows, but the object had gone. It was in view 2/3 minutes.

The object had a curved thin plane at the bottom that was 'rilled' like the edge of a silver coin. This was silvery. The top was a dirty golden colour in the form of a dome. There were no lights on the object - the colouration was like paint. Indeed the girl said when it really closed she could see that the surface was scratched and some of the paint had come off! (A second hand UFO!) On the top of the dome there was a round black circle and set on top of this an odd looking handle. She said it appeared that the top lifted off the dome by means of this handle. When the object was close to the house she could hear a humming noise. When it hovered the first time this humming died down like the batteries on a tape recorder running down. When it moved away again it started humming again. The whole object also appeared to be rotating anti-clockwise, evidenced by sunlight catching on the surface.



Perhaps the strangest part of an already strange tale concerns the part when the object was very close to the window. When it had stopped and hovered she looked away for a few moments and this 'head' appeared. It was sticking up out of the dome it seemed to be covered in a silvery material that creased, like a hood made of leather. It was turning from side to side. No facial features were seen, but it seemed to be animate. After the object was temporarily lost behind the house the 'head' retracted. It was not seen again.

Melanie wishes anonymity and, as in many similar close encounters, appears to have been singled out. The area is quite built up and 7.30am is a busy time. Yet nobody else at all seems to have been witness to this very spectacular and close observation.

July 21 1978

Davyhulme, Trafford, Gtr Manchester

CE 1 Psycho

Level 4

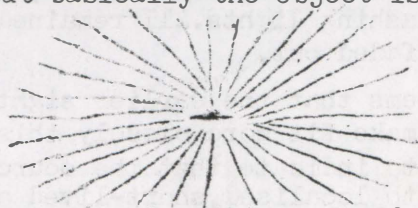
This report was brought to the investigators attention on December 8th. The witnesses had seen her on Granada TV, chiefly talking about a UFO nearby to them that had been identified. Following their sighting they had written to BBC TV astronomy expert Patrick Moore, who in his customary fashion had disregarded the facts contained in their long letter and sumarily dismissed their observation as a spectacular meteoric fireball (clearly a ludicrous proposal as you will shortly see). However, since they were searching out an explanation and did NOT want to have seen a flying saucer they accepted this - until Jenny Randles on TV had convinced them that UFOs need not be frightening, wierd and impossible things so they reported it AS a UFO.

The witnesses are a couple who have just retired. Mr Walmsley was a master plumber and is serious and sceptical about UFOs. He says "Well OK, its a UFO - until someone can come up with an answer for it". Mrs Walmsley is a part-time artist, much more sensitive and imaginative with a background history of psychic phenomena (chiefly psychometry and telepathy) that she is very loathe to discuss. She considered those things unconnected to her UFO sighting, and not really very respectable - although she cannot dismiss the fact that hey have happened to her.

They live in a residential area 8 miles south west of Manchester, close to the Trafford Park Industrial estate and the Manchester docks. The area contains pleasant residential accomodation, much of it post war as the area was heavily bombed during the blitz.

At 10-15pm on a warm, sunny evening Mrs Walmsley sat in an easy chair looking south east through the window at the twilight sky. The object she saw immediately registered as strange and she called it to the attention of her husband, who walked to the window watched it a moment then went outside to view it. Meanwhile his wife searched and found a pair of binoculars, struggled to get these from the case and went outside to watch. Both were outside for thirty seconds or so but Mrs Walmsley did not attempt to focus the binoculars for fear of missing something. Total observation (reconstructed) is at least one minute - possibly up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes (obviously far too long for a fireball that is never visible more than a few seconds)

Witness descriptions differ slightly (Mrs W may well have elaborated a little due to her nature or been more observant), but basically the object is consistantly described as containing a dark central disc, almost flat but with a slight dome in the middle. A clear area surrounded this and then shooting out like rays from a child's drawing of the sun were about 30/40 'antennae' - coloured a



very distinctive red/purple. These were all the same length - and did not vary at any point, although the object covered at least 45 degrees of arc from NNE to SSW and both witnesses were well aware (indeed remarked upon) the fact that perspective should have altered the length at some point of some of the anetnnae. The object vanished in a strange way. If you imagine the antennae to be made up of a long row of light bulbs then you switch off the end one one each antennae together, then the next inner one and so on untik the centre is reached and the whole thing goes out. There were about twelve stages of extinction, total duration about 12 seconds. As can be seen the antennae were much bigger than the central disc (ratio was estimated as at least 1:12). Total size was certainly massive both after numerous independant tests settled for a size of about 5 inches at arms length or the size of the roof of the house opposite! At no stage was there ay sound.

Mrs Walmsley felt a curious penetrating sensation of being singled out and watched during the sighting. Both witnesses attest to the curious stillnes and isolation (time suspension) surrounding their sighting. The area is not devoid of people by any means, at that timee on a warm, Summer evening but there was nobody about and there are no other reports of this amazingly noticable phenomenon. Once more we have a close encounter where the witnesses appear to have been singled out, and is it just coincidence that Mrs Walmsley is an artist and this is an artistic UFO?

October 14 1978 Stafford, Staffs MED Level A

The witness, whom we shall just call Mark, is a psychiatric nurse and was on an early duty that cold clear morning. He was walking along Rowley Street (OS 127 - 921243) when he suddenly noticed a sphere of light had appeared at elevation 30 degrees in the NNE. Time was 06.30. He stopped and watched it over terraced roof-



tops about 1000 feet up. It was the size of the sun in appearance and white, with a penumbra round the edges. It appeared two dimensional and translucent. After a couple of seconds the sphere emitted a light beam downwards. This was like a torch switched on but was straight down and just a line.

Then it suddenly grew into a cone (angle maximum 39 degrees). This was dimmer than the main source, still white, and came from the bottom centre of the sphere. A star was seen through the beam. The beam then began to swing like a pendulum, towards and away from the witnesses position (thus altering its diameter apparently). After the beam had been visible about eight seconds, apparently scanning the ground it went out (he feels the beam went out momentarily before the sphere of light vanished).

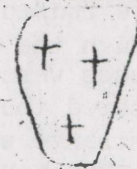
The investigators have looked into several natural possibilities and the only feasible one (a helicopter with a searchlight) is considered highly unlikely due to the low height and the built up area, the lack of any other visible lights and the total lack of sound on a quiet morning with very little wind at a very close distance. They tend to regard it as another example of a UFO plus lightbeam.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COFFINS!

Investigation Nigel Watson (SUFORS)

The national press carried several mentions in late November of these odd-looking UFOs seen over the Worksop area of Nottinghamshire. It seems that the chief sighting was on November 8 1978 by an elderly couple who observed for a period of 2 hours from 05.00 a darkish solid looking coffin shape (slightly shorter in length than a normal coffin). It was in the SE at low elevation. The interior gave out flaming white light and there were crosses of red, orange and purple light within that flashed in second long sequences. Dotted all over the sky were about 40 similar objects, but about 1/8th the size, greyish and without all the flashing lights. All remained more or less stationary until daylight came when they faded out.

It seems that the earlier sightings were of lights that the media twisted a little to make fit more closely this unusual UFO type. However, the facts of the case seem to indicate that the source was atmospheric. Perhaps distortions of stars due to localised, short-lived atmospheric conditions (the age of the chief witness - 75 - may also have played a part). In any event I did not consider that these sightings were of any great significance and prefer to leave options open about a good number of plausible natural explanations for them. The witnesses did appear to be reliable, and told the story as it seemed to them, and does appear that whatever the cause it was at least quite spectacular.



REPORTS CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE LOW 6 MEDIUM 6 CE 1 (1) CE 3 (1)

Total 14 Identifications: Atmospheric conditions (1) Aircraft (2) Balloon (1)
Ball lightning (1) Space debris (1) Insufficient (3)

Unknown 5 (35%)

1978 Reports Cumbria (1) Tyne & Wear (1) N. Humberside (1) Nottinghamshire (1)
Merseyside (1) Staffordshire (1) West Midlands (2) Cheshire (1)
Greater Manchester (5)